

I Know How to Do Well on Tests.

AREA: Educational and Vocational Development
CATEGORY: Improving Study and Learning Skills
TIME: 50 minutes
GROUP SIZE: Small group or class **GRADE LEVEL:** 6-9
MATERIALS: "Objective and Essay Tests" and "Performance-Assessment Tests" student handouts
REFERENCE: St. Louis Public Schools Career Education Office, *Personal Exploration*, 1992.

Testing Yourself***Introduction:***

Students often have difficulty taking tests. There are many things that they can do to make testing easier for themselves. The most important of these things is to make preparation a pleasant and less stressful experience.

Procedure:

1. Tell students that there are three types of tests: objective, essay, and performance-assessment tests. An objective test is one that can be answered with short, concise answers. It consists of factual questions that can be answered by filling in a blank or choosing a multiple choice answer. Essay tests contain questions requiring answers in sentence, paragraph, or short composition form. Performance-assessment tests contain questions that require a strong foundation of knowledge and an application of that knowledge to real-world problems.
2. Distribute and discuss the "Objective and Essay Tests" student handout.
3. Distribute and discuss the "Performance-Assessment Tests" student handout.
4. Impress upon the students that preparation for a test begins long before the date of the test. When they are prepared for a test, they will do better because they will feel more confident.
5. On the board, list the following steps in preparing for a test:
 - a) Take notes.
 - b) Do your homework.
 - c) Correct your mistakes.
 - d) Know what kind of test the teacher will give.
 - e) Plan for study time.
 - f) Predict the type of questions that the teacher may ask.
 - g) Review your notes several times.
 - h) Get a good night's sleep on the night before the test.
6. As a homework assignment, ask the students to make their own test based on something they are currently studying. It may be objective, essay, or performance-assessment.

Notes:

Begin the homework assignment in class so students can ask for help if needed.

Evaluation Suggestions:

Refer to Section VI of the manual.

Objective and Essay Tests

What can you expect when your teacher tells you that you will be taking an objective test? Most objective tests are composed of the following types of items.

1. True or false statements

Example:

T F The United States' first president was George Washington.

2. Matching

Example:

- | | |
|-----------|-----------------|
| 1. Liquid | (a) ice |
| 2. Solid | (b) water vapor |
| 3. Gas | (c) water |

3. Multiple choice

Example:

The capital of Missouri is:

- a. St. Louis
- b. Columbia
- c. Jefferson City
- d. Kansas City

4. Completion (fill-in-the-blank)

Example:

Water is composed of hydrogen and _____.

What can you expect when your teacher tells you that you will be taking an essay test? Essay test questions often begin with clue words. Practice answering essay questions by answering the example questions. Try to respond fully and accurately to the questions and the clue word.

1. Outline -

Example: Outline the procedure for making chocolate chip cookies.

2. Describe -

Example: Describe the results of the science experiment.

3. Compare and contrast -

Example: Compare and contrast the climate of North America to the climate of South America.

4. Define -

Example: Define the term "multiplication."

5. Explain -

Example: Explain what is meant by the old saying, "Actions speak louder than words."

STUDENT HANDOUT

Performance-Assessment Tests

What can you expect when your teacher tells you that you will be taking a performance-assessment test? Most performance-assessment tests are composed of the following types of items.

The manager of the pizza restaurant where you work wants to make pepperoni pizza the daily special. She has asked you to do a cost study to determine the profits the restaurant will make if it offers the mini-size and the medium-size pepperoni pizza at the daily special prices.



- It costs a total of \$0.70 for the cheese, sauce, and dough for one mini-pizza and \$2.50 for one medium pizza.
- We put 4 slices of pepperoni on each mini-pizza and 16 slices on each medium pizza.
- We slice a 24-inch stick of pepperoni into pieces that are $\frac{1}{16}$ inch thick. One stick costs \$9.99.

Use the information provided to prepare a report of your findings for your manager. Write your report in the space provided. Include in your report:

- A summary of your findings that states how much the restaurant will make from the sale of each size of pepperoni pizza.
- A written description of each step of the process you used to reach your conclusions.

Calculate the profit made from the sale of a mini-size pizza and the profit made from the sale of a medium-size pizza. Show all of your work on a separate sheet of paper.